



City Councilmember

Carl DeMaio

News Release

DeMaio to Sacramento: End the Unnecessary Call Box Program in an Era of Cell Phones

Ending Outdated "S.A.F.E." Program Would Provide Tax Rebate of \$11.8 Million and Save San Diegans \$2.6 Million Annually

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San Diego -- Councilmember Carl DeMaio today requested members of the San Diego County delegation to the state legislature to carry legislation ending the Service Authorities for Freeway Emergencies (S.A.F.E.) program that establishes call boxes on highways across the state. The proliferation of cell phones has made the S.A.F.E. program obsolete and wasteful to taxpayers.

Eliminating S.A.F.E. will save taxpayers \$2.6 million annually in San Diego County alone, and return almost \$12 million in reserves to county residents. "While this program may have been useful when it was created in 1986, it's time our State government realize that we have entered the 21st century," noted DeMaio.

Concerns have also been raised regarding the S.A.F.E. committee giving unequal distributions of funds to municipalities and taxpayer money being spent on programs that do not fit the core purpose of S.A.F.E.

An alternative to a flat reimbursement would be to put the money toward critical funding gaps in our local public safety systems which serve motorists; either idea would be supported by DeMaio if it means ending the outdated program.

"This program is a perfect example of a government bureaucracy that has outlived its purpose," said DeMaio. "I urge the San Diego County delegation to make the common sense decision to end this wasteful program and return the money back to the community."

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